



San Francisco Department of Public Health

Grant Colfax, MD
Director of Health

City and County of San Francisco
London N. Breed
Mayor

Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of May 2, 2023

A current overview of issues affecting the state of public health in San Francisco

<https://www.dph.org/dph/comupg/aboutdph/insideDept/dirRpts/default.asp>

Today, there are over 198,480 San Francisco residents with confirmed cases of COVID-19. And, sadly, a total of 1,193 San Franciscans have died. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) sends our condolences to their loved ones.

DPH HOSTS CDC DIRECTOR ON HER VISIT TO SAN FRANCISCO

Last week, DPH hosted Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), on a tour of our Maria X Martinez Health Resource Center, the newly constructed urgent care and transitional primary clinic in the South of Market neighborhood. California State Health Officer, and DPH alum, Dr. Tomás Aragón also joined. At a roundtable discussion with DPH leadership, we had the opportunity to highlight the successes of our COVID-19 response and our efforts to prevent HIV and mpox; promote uptake of Doxy-PEP to reduce the transmission of sexually transmitted infections; and provide overdose prevention and street care. It was an honor to share our experiences with Dr. Walensky, who was impressed and supportive of our work.

DPH COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM FOSTERS YOUTH-LED FILM PROJECT ON SEXUAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The DPH Community Health Equity and Promotion Branch's (CHEP) YUTHE team (Youth United Through Health Education) recently piloted a new program for San Francisco youth ages 15-19. In partnership with BAVC Media and California Film Institute (CAFILM), this project aims to give voice to youth through the medium of digital storytelling. CHEP convened a cohort of 10 San Francisco-based young people for a month-long workshop series where they explored themes of sexual health and wellbeing. Approaching sexual health through a holistic lens, they discussed topics including health and identity, racial inequity, STI/STD prevention, and stigma. At the end of March, the youth participants took what they learned in these workshops to craft a personal short film on a topic meaningful to them. During a spring break intensive, our partners at BAVC Media coached the



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youth through the creation of their short films, helping them through the process of filming, writing a narrative, and editing their footage.

The youth led films at the following link are the results of the project: <https://sf.gov/yuthe>. Please help us celebrate the wonderful work of our youth!

DPH CENTER FOR LEARNING & INNOVATION (CLI) AWARDED 5-YEAR GRANT TO BOLSTER WORKFORCE DIVERSITY

Since 2012, CLI has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health to host the [Summer HIV/AIDS Research Program \(SHARP\)](#) – an intensive 10-week mentored research program designed to inspire undergraduates from historically underrepresented minority (URM) groups in public health to consider graduate training and future careers in HIV prevention research. Jointly led by Drs. Jonathan Fuchs and John Saucedo (UCSF), SHARP has successfully recompleted for an additional five years of funding from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. The paid internship supports six scholars annually to pursue research projects with mentors from DPH and UCSF that address the intersection of HIV/AIDS and substance use. Scholars attend weekly seminars throughout the summer, participate in networking events, and present their research findings at a SHARP Scholar Symposium. All fifty-seven scholars enrolled to date have completed the program; 96% self-identify as URM, over 75% are attending graduate school (or intend to do so as they are completing their undergraduate degrees) and a third have worked at DPH in some capacity after SHARP, making it one of the Population Health Division's most highly successful pathway programs.

DPH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH STAFF SUPPORT CHANGES TO THE REGULATION OF HAZARDOUS WASTE STORAGE

The Environmental Health Branch's Hazardous Materials and Waste Program regulates nearly all aspects of hazardous materials storage and disposal in San Francisco. One of these areas includes the storage of hazardous materials in underground storage tanks (USTs). Common places to find USTs is at gasoline stations and for backup generators used to provide emergency power for businesses or high-rise buildings.

Effective September 25, 2014, Senate Bill (SB) 445 changed the regulatory program regarding



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design and construction of USTs. Specifically, this change requires that on or before December 31, 2025, the owner or operator must permanently close a UST if it was designed and constructed with single-walled components.

The California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is tasked with overseeing this regulatory deadline as it is enforced by local agencies throughout the State. To prepare for this task, the SWRCB requested to conduct joint field inspections with inspectors from the DPH Hazardous Materials and Waste Program. During several inspections the SWRCB was able to gain valuable insights and learn a great deal from DPH Senior Inspectors Thomas Chan and Jin Tang. Thank you to Thomas and Jin for lending your expertise to improving safety measures in San Francisco and across the State.

ZUCKERBERG SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL (ZSFG) HOSPITAL CELEBRATES LINEN WEEK

For the first time, ZSFG joined the nation in celebrating National Linen Week. Linen is an important but unsung item that is critical for patient safety and the prevention of infections. The ZSFG Linen Team is collaborating with the ZSFG Labor and Delivery unit on a reusable pillow initiative. If successful, this project will support the hospital's sustainability efforts and create a cost savings annually. Every year, the hospital receives 2.4 million pounds of clean linens and also generates 2.4 million pounds of soiled linens. This includes scrubs, blankets, sheets, gowns and more. Clean and soiled linens are delivered and picked up 365 days a year. ZSFG boasts a small but mighty team of 11 staff that support the entire hospital campus! We recognized all the great work of Modesto Hernandez, Henry Garcia, Ruel Ditona, Pete Lumio, Angelo Cromartie, Edita Walker, Minh Lam, Anthony Jackson, Yan Naing Kyaw, and their supervisor Alson Requillo, their new manager Olivia Johnson and the Support Services Administrator, Chauncey Jackson on social media, on campus screens and in our Daily Digest newsletter. We appreciate the Linen Team at ZSFG for their continual service!



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COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 4/26:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of new COVID cases per day is 44 and 56 people are hospitalized, including 9 in the ICU.
- Eighty-six percent of all SF residents have been vaccinated and 65% have received booster dose(s). Forty percent of residents have received a bivalent booster.

[DPH in the News](#)